

The Washington Times

(Every Day in the Year)

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The Washington Times

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WASHINGTON, D. C., MARCH 25, 1894.

Weather Forecast for To-day.

For the District of Columbia, Maryland,

and Virginia, generally fair, probably colder,

severe cold wave Sunday night; south winds,

becoming northwest.

Monday's Times--

Twice as small as any other paper,
containing twice or
three times as much.
Among its features will beA LITTLE STORY OF
GREAT INTEREST.

IN SEVEN DAYS.

THE TIMES is exactly a week old this morning, and it bows and says good day. It appreciates fully the beauty of the Easter season. It appreciates fully the compliments which its friends have paid it. It has been assured by them over and over that its determination to print the news, really to speak plainly about public questions, really to open its columns to a free discussion of current topics of whatever human interest, really to be fair and honest and earnest, is applauded and supported by 10,000 enthusiastic admirers, by admirers who have been enthusiastic enough to pay their good, hard-earned money for the paper, and by an end of others, men and women both, who have welcomed this very healthy youngster into their households.

CONTESTED ELECTION CASES.

IN MY judgment one of the weakest points in the Federal Constitution is the provision which makes each House of Congress the sole judge of the election and qualification of its own members. The intention of the framers of that great instrument was that contested election cases should be settled in each house as the facts warranted, and that the judgment expressed should be in the nature of a judicial determination and be respected as such. The provision has fallen short, if not wholly failed, of the purpose of its enactment. There is very little respect for the decisions rendered by either House in contested election cases. The vote on the question of unseating a member is almost invariably had upon strict party lines without regard to the facts. I am not speaking of any particular case, or of any particular party, but of all cases and of all parties.

From the lessons and history of the past it is now evident that it would have been far better for the states to have reserved this power and to have invested the courts of the respective states with authority to settle these contests. The larger the body whose duty it is to decide any important question the more the responsibility is divided, and, by reason of this, the less there is of earnest effort to be right. Were the courts invested with authority in these cases they would be directly responsible to the people, would inform themselves before acting, and there would be far less inducement to be led in elections.

As these cases are now disposed of in Congress it is a lamentable fact that outside of a few members of the committee to whom the contests are referred for investigation, the members do not as a rule give the facts as much consideration as the most indifferent juror would when trying the question of the ownership of a mule. The indifference and inattention of the jurors in these election cases would, if fully understood over the country, be a great surprise to reading and considerate people. Understand, I do not charge any corruption, but inattention and undue partisan zeal.

SILVER AND GOLD.

IT IS quite clear that no sane nation will independently and without the cooperation of at least four or five of the other leading nations of the world undertake to open its mints to the free coinage of silver into legal-tender money at any ratio whatever. Those who think the United States willing to undertake such a folly put but a low estimate upon the common sense of our people. We have had too and too costly an experience with silver to find us willing to experiment further in this direction. The advocates of free coinage ask it on a basis of 16 to 1, whereas if they were to say 32 to 1 we have no assurance that in six months it would be worth commercially so much. We have now both gold and silver in constant general use, and it is highly improbable that any large number of people are willing to see either banished, a result which would inevitably follow the free and unlimited coinage of both gold and silver with legal-tender attributes.

It is barely possible, if the United States is guilty of no further foolishness in connection with silver, that Germany, the Latin Union, and Great Britain may unite in inviting us to another international conference upon the subject. If they do, it is to be hoped we will promptly accept and endeavor to help the restoration of bimetalism. It is easy to see, however, that even with all the experiment favorable that there are difficulties almost insurmountable in the way. For instance, what would be the ratio? Certainly a new one, which would be probably 25 to 30 to 1, which would require, properly speaking, the recoinage of several thousand millions of silver at an enormous expense and attended with great inconvenience also. As, too, the nations owning the present silver coins

would have to supply the additional silver required to bring it up to the new ratio, it would be the most costly undertaking the world has seen in centuries. This consideration would probably block the plan from the start. Again, even then it is doubtful whether silver could be kept at a commercial parity of 25 to 1 of gold, and this costly agreement would in the end break down.

There is a much easier, a far safer and a thoroughly practical plan for dealing with the matter, and one nation—ourselves, let us say—can inaugurate it with the certainty that other nations will follow. There never was any reason why any gold or silver coin should have been made a legal tender and coinage simply should have been evidence that each coin contained the proper weight of gold or silver, and that it was of the fineness it should be. As, however, people value the legal tender quality, and as we will not need any more legal tender, either paper, silver or gold, until we have a population in the United States of at least 1,000,000,000 people, we should stop all legal-tender coinage, but permit our present supply of legal tender to remain a legal tender. We might go further, and fully satisfy the timid or doubting by providing that the government may coin more legal-tender gold or silver (on its own account) whenever deemed necessary. This done, the government should throw open its mints on the same terms as existed prior to 1873 and coin freely and without limit both gold and silver, giving neither metal the preference, but no coin so minted for the owners of bullion should be a legal tender. On one side of each should appear the words "not a legal tender," on the other side should appear the words "gold" or "silver" instead of "dollar" or "dollars."

Your readers can easily reason out for themselves the result. Let them suppose this plan laid. It would not in any way drive out or expel a dollar of silver, gold, or paper now in circulation, and so long as there was an ounce of gold or silver bullion in the world and we actually needed more money it would flow to our mints for coinage. That this solution would be perfect of a question now so troublesome does not admit of a reasonable doubt, and while I admit unreasonable doubts may occur to some, I am certain they can readily solve them without outside suggestions. This solution would be quickly adopted by other nations, and the world would promptly put this new knotty and troublesome question behind it.

MICHAEL D. HARTER.

HITS—OR MISSES

It is a pity, but the demand for Miss Pollard's theatrical performances is at present greater than for Col. Breckinridge's Sunday school lectures.

Ex-Secretary Steve Elkins has had the good taste to choose West Virginia instead of New York to be Senator from.

Some of the papers report Mr. Cleveland as being on the fence in the seigniorage matter, which would be an undignified position for such a portly gentleman.

The Breckinridge trial has had the good effect of preventing Major Ben Butterworth from running for mayor of Cincinnati.

Mrs. Frank Leslie says that women of the west like electricity and yeast, and Mrs. Leslie surely ought to know.

The California Gen. Fry who is marching on Washington is no relative of Smith D.

A Washington broker shows a telegram from E. C. Benedict saying that the seigniorage bill will be vetoed. The Benedict tips are straight.

Commodore Walker will now accommodate the cattle zephyrus of the Pacific.

Congressman Jack Robinson, of Pennsylvania, asked us to believe that Senator Quay is now neutral in Keystone politics.

Senator Bruce has not assumed to dictate New York appointments, and it is therefore to be assumed that he is a Senator from Ohio.

It is doubtful if Joseph R. Choate would refuse the governorship nomination in New York.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer remarks that it isn't very sentimental girl that cries, "Lord, Lord," that gets a decent foreign husband.

Calve, the singer, paid Chicago the delicate compliment of chewing gum in one of the theater boxes of that town.

Somehow Tax Times has not received Farmer Hallet Kilburn's subscription. No squashes, Mr. Kilburn; no squashes.

Reading, Pa., saloon men have determined to abolish free lunches, which is an indication that times must be improving in Reading.

Congressman Morse will vote to expel Congressman Breckinridge from the House unless Mr. Breckinridge first gets a chance to vote to expel Mr. Morse.

Victor Croker has now arrived in San Francisco, and there he will take lessons in the art of making money out of municipal politics.

Mr. Dunphy thinks that one-man power has ruined Tammany, but modestly prevents him from saying who the man is.

THE NICARAGUA CANAL.

THE recent rumored occupation of Bluefields by British forces, exaggerated as it was, created a stir of interest and awakened serious thought. This was not on account of mere sentiment, for that convenient vagueness of verbiage, "the Monroe doctrine," which was so skillfully covered over so much want of knowledge and lack of interest among our people. It was because Bluefields was within half a day's easy sail of Greytown, and Greytown is the eastern entrance to the projected and begun Nicaragua canal. Why should the fact have made any difference to the people of the United States?

The canal is as yet only begun. At the outside not more than six per cent. of its estimated cost has yet been paid in and expended. It is not a national enterprise as yet, but is the property of a private corporation, wherein the stockholders may or not be free-citizens of our own. And yet when the attention of the country is roused, there is absolute unanimity of sentiment, that this whole matter belongs to outsiders. Our people feel and know that the canal which will connect the Atlantic and Pacific will be must be ours. And just as if the canal were finished and our own, any rumor of foreign occupation of a point which might interfere strategically with our use of our own, is resisted in advance. The canal must be as American and as exclusively American as the Union Pacific railway. If we will act or definitely say we are going to act, the rest of the world outside of the United States will acquiesce in our ownership. No one whispers a doubt of this.

When we choose to unite the western coast of the United States with the eastern by a waterway of our own no one will say us nay. The only real opposition has come and will come from our own carrier corporations, whose transcontinental monopoly of traffic may be interfered with. That will probably be the case, just as their competition crushed out the pony express, and in many cases has interfered with water traffic. But the canal, I hope, when we shall see the canal completed, owned by the United States, just as our navy yards, our forts, our Federal buildings, with a belt of ceded territory wide enough for fortification defense, with nomi-

nal tolls on all American vessels and fair tolls on others.

The trade of the Pacific coast states has paid for many years an excess of cost of transportation and distribution over what a free and undisturbed water traffic would afford, estimated by the San Francisco chamber of commerce at forty to fifty millions of dollars a year. How long could it be before the canal, whatever it cost, would pay itself back indirectly to our people? If the Frelinghuysen treaty with Nicaragua cannot be renewed by diplomatic effort, then let us take up the proposition of using the franchise and concessions owned by the canal company as proposed by Senator Morgan. I prefer trying the former means and see if the treaty granting us sovereignty for five or more miles on each side of the canal cannot be negotiated, but if not then let us become indirectly the owner and retain for the government the control of the construction and management. But at all events let us remember that all Presidents, all administrations, all parties, are agreed that this waterway is to be made, it is to be made by the United States, and whether directly or indirectly it is to belong to the United States, let treaties, foreign powers, selfish vested interest say what they may. BELAMONT STOKES.

MR. LEITER'S \$6,000 SUBSCRIPTION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 23.—The District of Columbia Democrats, who are very loyal and active politicians, although they are deprived of the right of suffrage and cannot get the home rule policy adopted in the District, are much amused at the report that Mr. Levi Z. Leiter, formerly of Chicago and now of Washington, is being "talked of" as minister to Russia. These District Democrats remember well when Mr. Leiter first came among them in the Spring of 1888. He was then an applicant for office, and anxious to be enrolled as a District of Columbia Democrat. So eager was he to show his party that he had subscribed \$6,000 to the Cleveland Insurance ball fund. Some time after the festivities were over Mr. Leiter was called upon for his mite. He had chosen to give his money, however, on the subject of contributions, perhaps because he had learned that President Cleveland had not sided him for an office, and he refused to give the \$6,000. The District of Columbia Democrats were left in a bad hole by this change of heart on the part of the Chicago millionaire, and have taken pains to place Mr. Leiter's name on the list of contributors of the facts. This may possibly account for President Cleveland's action in persistently passing Mr. Leiter by.

Good for Mothers-in-Law.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES: THE TIMES is a real treat to the newsreading public of Washington. Nor is it at all strange when you consider that it furnishes as much reading matter for a cent as most other journals do at double and triple the price. Its four well-printed and sprightly pages are captivating to the general reader. He reads it all over without stopping—advertisements and on questions of public interest. THE TIMES does not end here. If that reader happens to be a man whose mother-in-law constantly makes him wish he didn't live there, he carries the paper home with him from the office and hands it to her as a peace offering, and as long as THE TIMES is present tranquility rests upon that household.

Born Under a Lucky Star.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES: YOU are as fresh as a hot mufin—a very healthy and precocious youngster, to be sure. THE TIMES was born under a lucky star. It is abreast of the leading ideas of the age, and on questions of public interest, its spirit of liberality and progress is appreciated, and it is read by all with increasing fervor. I am sure of that.

M. H. C.

Mr. Paxton Will Explain in Person.

I AM informed, says a writer in the New York Press, that Dr. Paxton will return to New York at once and make a personal explanation, not only to the board of health, but to the community in general, as to his failure to record within the time required by law the marriage of Col. William C. F. Breckinridge and Mrs. Louise R. S. Wing. The doctor has been having a good deal of trouble lately, and there will be a very kindly feeling toward him among his old parishioners when he returns if there is not a general disposition to accept a satisfactory explanation. His friend tells me that any possible indiscretion of this sort which the doctor might commit would be having largely to do with the road, and his warm loyalty to his old friends.

Miss Pollard a Wonderful Witness.

Pittsburg Leader: Her testimony is a marvel of woman's wit, not merely in so far as it conveys the impression of truth and straightforwardness as regards the ability manifested to meet and convert to the advantage of the witness the thrusts of one of the keenest of cross-examiners. The combination of seemingly modest self-possession and aptness of reply with which this young woman meets a fire of questions which are being asked in a language so unbecomingly coarse and representative of her sex under the circumstances, with an audience of lawyers, statesmen, and paper correspondents to boot, throughout the entire ordeal, are calculated to inspire a sentiment akin to admiration.

Dr. Briggs and Miss Pollard.

FROM THE CINCINNATI TRIBUNE: The latest roadblock is to the effect that Dr. Briggs, smarting under the impassioned attacks of the "silver-tongued orator" in his trial for heresy, advanced the shrewd war of far plaintiff.

Mad Poll is Brokenpledge.

HIS case looks quite blue. When the jury gets through with him, will he be able to keep his head under his wing? Will he hide his head under his wing?

Congressman Wilson Improved.

SAN ANTONIO, TEX., March 24.—Congressman W. L. Wilson is much improved to-day. He sat up in bed a few hours and received two callers. He is expected to be excused from talking to-day. He was here for the launch of ex-Congressman Cable, of Illinois, Monday.

EASTER.

When Easter comes the violets lift
Their shy hooded faces,
Where late the frozen snows drift
Heaped high the dead and spaces.

When Easter comes the sunbeams dance
On green leaves all anquiver,
And grasses rally, spear and lance,
By rippling brook and river.

When Easter comes the lilies haste
What time the bells are ringing,
To bring their perfumes, pure and chaste,
From hallowed centers swinging.

Shine dim church aisles on Easter day
Beneath their thrush and sparrow,
And happy children kneel and pray
Amid the lilies' brightness.

When Easter comes, a merry train,
The robin, wren, and starling,
With song and wing are here again,
And many another darling.

The bluebird and the oriole,
The martin and the swallow,
"Away," they chant, "with grief and dole,
Here's Spring, and Summer'll follow!"

When Easter comes when Easter comes,
Then Winter's spell is over,
Ere long we'll hear the elfin drums
Where bees are deep in clover.

After we catch the swaying lilt
Of winds among the daisies,
And see the rosebuds' sweetness split
Among the garden mazes.

When Easter comes, all happy day,
E'en tears and dewdrops glisten,
And some climb up the stairway way
While angels bend to listen.

For love and love and joy abound
Are in the age-long story
That speaks itself on harp of gold,
And thrills with endless glory.

—Harper's Young People.

CORRIDOR AND CURB.

"Francis Lynde Stetson, the President's former law partner," writes Harry Walker, "is on here in the interest of the New York business men to urge that the seigniorage bill be vetoed. Considering this powerful interest upon the part of Mr. Stetson, I, for one, believe that the bill will be vetoed unless President had fully made up his mind before Mr. Stetson's arrival here. Mr. Stetson has developed more influence with the President than any other man. No hundred men in this country have exercised the influence at the White House during the past few months as has this New York lawyer. If ever there was a kitchen Cabinet Mr. Stetson constitutes the one in this administration.

"The modest, genial Mr. Stetson goes about his work very freely. To see him around the Arlington, where he stops, laughing and chatting everybody, a stranger would not let us remember that all Presidents, all administrations, all parties, are agreed that this waterway is to be made, it is to be made by the United States, and whether directly or indirectly it is to belong to the United States, let treaties, foreign powers, selfish vested interest say what they may. BELAMONT STOKES.

"Mr. Stetson," Mr. Walker goes on, "is putting his influence to the greatest test. He had Hornblower and Peckham appointed. Will he be able to influence Mr. Cleveland in this is a question that everybody is asking themselves. Lots of people believe that if they knew the extent of Mr. Stetson's influence in this particular they could make their fortunes in the stock markets in the next week or so."

"I hear that Tom Ochiltree will soon return to Texas and again take up the practice of law," said James R. Platts, of Dallas, at the Shoreham last night. "He is remembered with kindness by his old associates in the Galveston district. His law sign still hangs out on Meacham street, and the same kind of bullet holes are in evidence down there now as were when he defeated Col. Finley for Congress. By the way, I will tell you a story on Tom and a venerable Catholic priest by the name of Chavers, who lived at a little hacienda near San Antonio.

"Tom had been a bad boy at his home. He shot carp, fought chickens, bet on horses, played 'seven-up,' and did everything else that characterizes a bad boy from Texas. He was incorrigible, and as Tom's father was an intimate friend of the priest, he was sent there that the holy father might mend Tom's ways.

"The morning after his arrival the priest was called away. He was to be gone about two weeks. So he took Tom aside and gave him a good long talk, telling him, among other things, that he would trust him not only with his fine horse, but with a bag of gold.

"Would he be a good boy? Of course. So the good priest went away, leaving Tom in complete charge of his horse, gold, and bag of gold. When he returned Tom met him at the gate with a smile. Had he behaved himself? Why, certainly. Had he taken good care of the horse? He could bet his life. And the gold? Tom couldn't tell him. He must see for himself. He led the way. The bag was reached, and when the priest attempted to lift it he found it too heavy. Instead of finding a few hundred he found several thousand. An explanation was demanded. Tom unhesitatingly told him. He had used the horse in racing with cowboys, and had won almost enough wealth to buy a ranch. The following train conveyed the untamed Tom back to Galveston Island."

"An effort will be made at once," said Hon. Wallace McLaughlin, of Mississippi, at the Metropolitan yesterday, to cause Congress to have erected a Federal prison in the south. As it is now prisoners must be transported to the extreme north to serve out their sentences. Thus the cost is great in the way of mileage and extra pay for the guards. Besides, it is a severe hardship upon the prisoners to be taken away from the southern climate to the cold winters of the north. They suffer in consequence on account of the change and frequently contract colds that are fatal to them. The South furnishes a big number of convicts each year. The majority of these are sent up for cutting government timber and for violating the internal revenue laws. Their terms are usually for a short period of time because their offenses are small. A southerner cannot stand cold weather. I have known of many cases where prisoners have left home the picture of health to return pale emaciated, and diseased. The government should by all means construct a prison in the South, and I think Jackson, Miss., the best place for it."

The brilliant young Populist leader in North Carolina, Col. Harry Kirklin, is at the Metropolitan. "South Carolina politically is in a state of upheaval and chaos," he said last night, "and he is talking about that the much-talked-of fight between Peter Jackson and Champion James Corbett is positively and finally 'off.' The fight was referred to a referee to give any details, but his intimacy with Corbett's manager makes it probable that the assertion is truthful.

They Abuse the Sex.
BALZAC: Suspect a woman who talks of her virtue.
ANON: He that hath a fair wife never wants trouble.

E. E. Landon: A woman's fame is the tomb of happiness.
ANNA C. STEELE: No woman is too silly not to have a genius for spite.

Samuel Johnson: In matters of business no woman stops at integrity.
BALZAC: Women have corrupted more women than men have loved.

Russian Proverb: Love thy wife as thy soul, shake her like a plum tree.
MADAME DE PUSIEUX: Curiosity has lost more young girls than love.

Crimes and Casualties.
PROF. JONES, an English scholar, perished in a snow storm in Alaska last night.

Dr. H. Remy, a young physician of Sao, Me., charges his wife with an attempt to poison him.

Two children of Henry Muerich, of Orland, Ill., have died from smallpox, supposed to have been in contact with Mrs. Carlisle. See other members of the family are violently ill.

Hiram Knoblock, aged fifteen, living near Bremen, Ind., used coal oil last night to wash his head and shortly afterward struck a match, igniting his hair. He was horribly and fatally burned.

Mrs. Cleveland at the Theatre.
FROM THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER: WASHINGTON, March 20.—I saw Mrs. Cleveland last night at the Shubert ball and burlesque. She had the front seat in the private box next the stage with Mrs. Carlisle. See other members of the family are violently ill.

"There is an old negro woman who was once a slave before the war, who is at the head of the movement. She is the priestess. Her form of worship is unlike that of any other religion. It is more on the order of the Salvation Army. Every member is required to say something at each meeting. The music is furnished by tambourines and banjos.

"The services are not dissimilar to those of the Voodooes in New Orleans. They are of the most grotesque character, yet they are impressive. The name of the priestess is Seinda. She exercises absolute control over her members. Personal cleanliness is demanded, and that is a feature to be commended. Seinda compels her converts to pay their debts, and any merchant in her community will give Seinda's hand credit for any reasonable amount. The slightest infraction of her rules is met with censure.

and was he unto him or her who violates her direct commandment."

"The Times is a dignified, crisp, and newy sheet; and what is best of all, it appears to love to tell the truth, said a prominent Treasury official yesterday morning to a Times man, 'Last night,' he continued, 'when I was ready to go to bed, I picked up the Times and found interesting matter in it for an hour's reading. You folks have the knack of putting into twenty lines what other papers would take half a column for. That's what attracted me last night. It's a busy man's paper.'"

"I want to say to Mr. Harry," a very knowing Pennsylvania politician said last night, "that if he thinks he is going to get Second Assistant J. Lowry Bell out of the Postmaster General's office, he can't do it. The Postmaster General believes in Bell, thinks he is a thoroughly efficient officer, and that he cannot do without him. Moreover, a great many Democrats understand, and I believe it, too, that certain very important railroad interests are working, without the knowledge of the Postmaster General, to keep Bell in there. The Second Assistant has \$40,000,000 a year to spend, and that office is one of the most important in the whole government, managing all the transportation of the mails by land or sea. A Second Assistant, if he is disposed, can be of the greatest use to important railroad corporations, and he can do it without trespassing any law or regulation, and almost without knowing that he is doing anything irregular."

"Your paper has a long head," the same visitor remarked, "to throw such strong doubts upon that story that Mr. Bissell and the President had been engaged in a ground floor stock deal in the Niagara Falls Power Company; and you can always be certain, my boy, that there is nothing the matter with Bissell. He is an upright and courageous man—or you wouldn't find him practically throwing out of office Democrats of prominence who come in expecting him to violate his purpose to allow every postmaster to serve four years."

How Women Prefer to Commit Suicide.
MYTYPEWRITER, according to the New York Press, says she doesn't think that the poor girl on Nassau street committed suicide, and when I asked her to give her reason more in detail, she answered thoughtfully:

"That girl had everything to live for, and even if she wanted to commit suicide she would have killed herself at home. No young woman would care to kill herself in a business office when she had the choice of doing it somewhere else. Then, most women would be afraid to fire off a pistol. You hear of girls who throw themselves into the water and of others who make poison, but I never remember to have heard any woman I know say she would be willing to kill herself with a pistol. I think, myself, it was probably done by some other woman who was jealous, but then I don't quite see how she would have dared to have fired off a pistol either. It is very puzzling, and it only shows you how careful a girl has got to be in accepting engagements with business firms."

A Sad Time for Actors.
THE critic met the old-school actor on the highway, and observing a pale melancholy in the face of the Thespian, said: "What's the matter, Hamlet? You look blue."

"I am blue," returned Hamlet. "These new-school actors are knocking us old fellows completely out."

"What seems to be the trouble?" asked the critic.
"I am not educated up to the standard," said Hamlet. "A man to be a good actor nowadays has got to swim in real water, or ride a race, or manage a buzz saw, or be an expert farm hand. I can't swim, or milk cows, and I am as afraid as of death of a buzz saw. Result, ruin!"—Harper's.

Yale Easily Beats University of Virginia.
RICHMOND, Va., March 24.—The University of Virginia club was easily defeated by the Yale team at the ball game at Island park here, afternoon. They were outclassed at every point, and especially in the box. Carter, the long-legged Yale toser, was an enigma to the untrained athletes from Charlottesville, while the Yankees first pitcher, Nelson, was an expert. Barnes was managed after the fourth inning, but the victory had been won. There was a fashionable audience of 2,000.

Says the Big Fight is Off.
PHILADELPHIA, March 24.—It is asserted here to-night by a gentleman well known to the Associated Press reporter, to whom the story was told, as being a position to know what he is talking about, that the much-talked-of fight between Peter Jackson and Champion James Corbett is positively and finally "off." The fight was referred to a referee to give any details, but his intimacy with Corbett's manager makes it probable that the assertion is truthful.

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